

# SMOKE SIGNALS

WINTER 2019



## Sterigenics and Indian Head Park

Happy New Year 2019 Indian Head Park residents! As you know, the Sterigenics of Willowbrook air pollution issue is of concern to all communities in the surrounding area, including our Village. Our Village is less than four (4) miles away and downwind of this facility. Unfortunately, air pollution knows no municipal boundaries, Mayor Tom Hinshaw, along with our Village Board of Trustees have been actively reaching out to local and national organizations and politicians in efforts to voice his concern. Below you will find the latest of multiple letters Mayor Hinshaw has written to various outlets. To view more letters Mayor Hinshaw has written, please visit our Sterigenics page on our website at [www.indianheadpark-il.gov/539/Sterigenics-Our-Community](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/539/Sterigenics-Our-Community).

*This letter was sent on January 2, 2019 to Bill Wehrum, the Assistant Administrator of OAR at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The DuPage State's Attorney Office, Lisa Madigan the Illinois Attorney General and Alec Messina, Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.*

### To Whom It May Concern:

The Village of Indian Head Park is a neighbor to the Village of Willowbrook located about 3.5 miles north and east (downwind) of Willowbrook. We have been following closely the Village of Willowbrook's initiative to find answers to the question of whether or not Sterigenics is in violation of air release standards for ethylene oxide (EtO) as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Although we understand that the rule of law and due process are imperative in addressing this issue, based on the current evidence, we cannot help but conclude that the Sterigenics' facilities (2 of them) located in Willowbrook are exceeding safe discharge levels as mandated by the USEPA and are therefore causing a public health hazard.

Although this specific issue has been in our awareness for over four months (we assume that Sterigenics was also aware of this issue), air quality samples taken by the Village of Willowbrook on November 16 and 17, 2018, indicate that the levels of EtO on the area continue to exceed safe toxicity levels. This leads us to believe that Sterigenics either does not have the ability to reduce emissions or simply does not care to reduce emissions.

Because of this, we join the Village of Willowbrook in requesting that the State of Illinois and the County of DuPage, through their respective agencies, seek immediately an interim order that Sterigenics shut down its Willowbrook Facilities until such time that the USEPA, the Illinois EPA and the Village of Willowbrook can determine why such high levels of EtO were detected on during their air quality sampling. We also request that once Sterigenics is shut down, that it not be allowed to reopen until such time as it can be determined by the USEPA and the Illinois EPA that Sterigenics has the processes in place to safely conduct their operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
*Tom Hinshaw*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 5: New Emergency Alert System for IHP!  
**SIGN UP NOW!!!**

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# A Honey of a Talk at the Heritage Center Library

Editorial By Trustee Christian Metz

The Indian Head Park Heritage Center Committee is proud to invite you to come hear north suburban residents, Jim and Karen Belli, tell their story about transitioning from architecture and teaching careers into beekeeping. The honey produced by their bees has won numerous local, state and nationally recognized awards. Jim and Karen will be giving an introduction to beekeeping, relaying the basics on how Indian Head Park residents can set up their own hive. Please visit [joeninni.com/belli/about.html](http://joeninni.com/belli/about.html) to learn more about Jim and Karen Belli.

***When: Saturday February 23, 2019, 10AM to 11AM***

***Where: Heritage Center Library, 6250 S. Wolf Road, Indian Head Park***

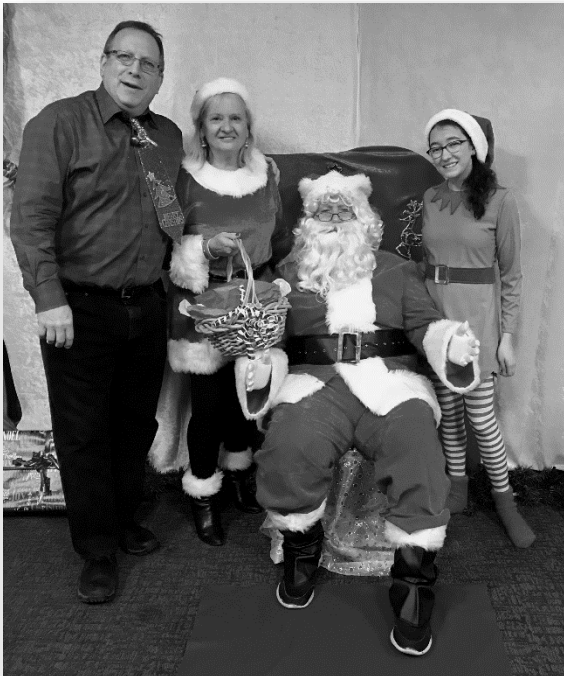
***Cost: Free***

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## Santa's Annual Visit to Village Hall!

Santa and his elves made another successful trip to Village Hall just before the Holidays, and he never disappoints. A special thanks to everyone that made this possible, especially Trustees, Brenda O'Laughlin and Amy Jo Wittenberg, for their continued support. We would also like to extend appreciation the "IHP Fun Committee", residents Rachel Thompson and Michelle Trottier for decorating. Our appreciation to Tony's Finer Foods and Walgreen's for their donations of holiday treats.

*Below: Mayor Hinshaw & Trustee O'Laughlin with Santa*



## **UPCOMING** *Events* **FEBRUARY 2019**

**Tuesday, February 5th**

***Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting***

***7:30pm - Village Hall***

**Thursday, February 14th**

***Village Board of Trustees Meeting***

***7:00pm - Village Hall***

**Tuesday, February 19th**

***Indian Head Park Women's Club***

***5:30 pm - Village Hall***

**Saturday, February 23rd**

***Introduction to Beekeeping***

***10:00 am - Heritage Center***





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**\*\*\*\*\* FRIENDLY REMINDER \*\*\*\*\***

**Indian Head Park Water Bills are due on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019!**

## **Pop Tops for Kelli Joy O'Laughlin!**

Our Indian Head Park Police Department and Village Hall, both are collecting pop tabs throughout the year to donate to "Pop Tops for Joy" in memory of Kelli Joy O'Laughlin and to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Please bring in your pop tabs to Village Hall or the Police Station! For more information or to donate to the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial foundation please visit [www.kjofund2.com](http://www.kjofund2.com) and for more information on the Ronald McDonald House please visit [rmhccni.org/get-involved/pop-tabs](http://rmhccni.org/get-involved/pop-tabs).

*Kelli Joy O'Laughlin*  
MEMORIAL FUND

## **Car Break-ins & Burglaries on the Rise in Neighboring Towns.**

The Village of Indian Head Park Police Department wants to notify residents and businesses to please keep your vehicles secure and locked at all times. Westerns Springs alone has had five motor vehicle break-ins, one motor vehicle theft and one motor vehicle theft recovery just within a five hour period between 8:45pm on Sunday, January 13 and 2:00am on Monday, January 14, 2019. In all cases, the vehicles were left unlocked, so please do not be any easy target and lock all car doors, and if at all possible park in the garage. If your vehicle has a built in security system, use it. Keep all windows, doors and sunroofs secure at all times, even on quick errands. Always bring your keys with you. Always, remove visible items such as cash, wallets and electronic devices, and place them in the trunk. Lastly, if you see or hear anything DO NOT hesitate to call 9-1-1.


**!!DONT FORGET TO VOTE ON APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019!!**

*For more information or to register to vote, please call the Township of Lyons Clerk's office at 708-482-8300 x221*



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# Village Implements New Emergency Alert System



On midnight of February 28th and March 1st, 2019 the Village will be switching over to the Smart911 Emergency Alert System, from the CodeRED system that we will be using until March 1st, 2019. In this process, we encourage all residents to stay signed up with CodeRED. This change is due in part to our switch from Southwest Central Dispatch to the Cook County

Dispatch System. Smart911 alerts residents of weather, traffic, and other emergencies within our surrounding area. With the Smart911 platform, you can setup a profile that provide Fire, Police and EMT with additional information directly like; pre-existing conditions and pertinent information, so they can help you faster in an emergency. Please note, the switchover will NOT affect or harm any interactions with our 911 emergency systems. When signing up for Smart911, please make sure you check the IHP box, as well as all the Cook County boxes when prompted. To sign up and make a profile please visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). If you have already signed up for Smart911, please sign back in to check the Indian Head Park boxes to receive our alerts.

## Help Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow

Although this winter has been relatively mild compared to previous years, the snow is still falling! Winter can bring many obstacles to first responders including slippery streets, frozen hose lines, and hidden fire hydrants. Snow can prove especially challenging when trying to fight fires because in many cases it makes fire hydrants hard to see or access. If there's a fire hydrant near your home that is covered with snow, do your part to keep it accessible this winter! Here are a couple tips to follow!

- Remove all snow and ice from hydrant so it is clearly visible
- Clear at least a 3 foot radius around the hydrant so firefighters have full access
- Make a path from the hydrant to the street for easier accessibility



*(Above: Hydrant with snow properly cleared away)*

## Coyotes in Indian Head Park



The Village would like all residents to be aware that the next four to six weeks is mating season for coyotes. Please do not let your animals out alone. The outcome can be tragic as coyotes can, and will attack beloved pets. Coyote breeding typically peaks in late

February and early March, and male coyotes can become more aggressive during this time of year, the long and short of it all is that coyotes always pose a risk to your animals, especially small pets. That risk increases during mating season. Dually noted, coyotes are protected as a furbearer in the State of Illinois, and cannot be harmed. Coyotes in urban areas can only be removed if a nuisance wildlife permit is issued by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources' District Wildlife Biologist. If you do have concerns of a coyote, please call the Illinois Department of Wildlife at (847)

**608-3100** or visit their website at

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

## **Indian Head Park Receives Budget Award!**



Every year our Village Administrator, John DuRocher and our Finance Manager, Argelia Garbacz extensively compile a budget, down to the last penny to ensure our Village Taxpayer's money is allotted correctly, and used in the most economically responsible ways. The Government Finance Officers Association, also known as GFOA, is a national organization, which has given the Village of Indian Head Park the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second year in a row! This is not an easy task, so we want to spotlight John and Argelia's hard work and months of dedication to put together our fiscal integrity and transparency!

In fact the GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program (Budget Awards Program) in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

Documents submitted to the Budget Awards Program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in public-sector budgeting. Thank you John DuRocher and Argelia Garbacz!

*(Above Left: John DuRocher & Argelia Garbacz posing with the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award)*

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## **Stay Connected & Follow The Village on Social Media!**

Our Village Board, along with Mayor Hinshaw want to keep residents up-to-date as quickly as possible, while being as transparent as possible. One way of making this happen is that the Village updated our website, and incorporated social media platforms such as; Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. We encourage all residents to follow on all or any of the applications available! Monthly Board Meetings are streamed live on Facebook, and Comcast Channel 6!



**Twitter: @villageofIHP**

**Facebook: @IndianHeadPark**

**Instagram: @\_indian\_head\_park\_**

**Website: [www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)**

including surplus soil and materials from the project construction. The noisewall material is expected to be pre-cast concrete with a form-liner, or print cast directly into the concrete. The noisewalls throughout the corridor will be uniform in type, except in locations where alternate materials may be used due to structural requirements. The height of the noisewalls through Indian Head Park are expected to vary from 14 to 20 feet over the pavement elevation. Existing noisewalls will be replaced throughout the Village with walls of similar height and length. Importantly, a new noisewall will be constructed along the on-ramp from Wolf Road to Southbound I-294. Also, the area North of Joliet will have new noisewalls that will be several feet higher than the existing throughout much of the length of the noisewall. For more information please visit our webpage on our website that is dedicated to the Tollway Expansion Project at <https://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/535/4293/I-294-Tollway-Expansion-Project-Informat>. The Village will keep posting up to the date information, as soon as we receive it. *(Pictured top left: an example of the future noisewalls that would be used.)*

**Smoke Signals** is published quarterly by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of ongoing activities in the Village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and the good of the citizenship. Circulation is 2,000.

Editor is Trustee Rita Farrell-Mayer. News for the next issue is due by February 15th, and should be electronically submitted to:

[rfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov](mailto:rfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov)

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Extra copies available at Village Hall or by emailing Linda Merrifield at [lmerrifield@indianheadpark-il.gov](mailto:lmerrifield@indianheadpark-il.gov)

**Village Board of Trustees**  
**Meets the second Thursday of every**  
**month – 7:00 pm at Village Hall**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

***February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

***March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

***April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

***May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

**Indian Head Park Village Hall**  
**201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525**  
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